



# Initial Operations Experience and Results from the Juno Gravity Experiment

NASA / SwRI / MSSS / Gerald Eichstädt / Seán Doran

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**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology

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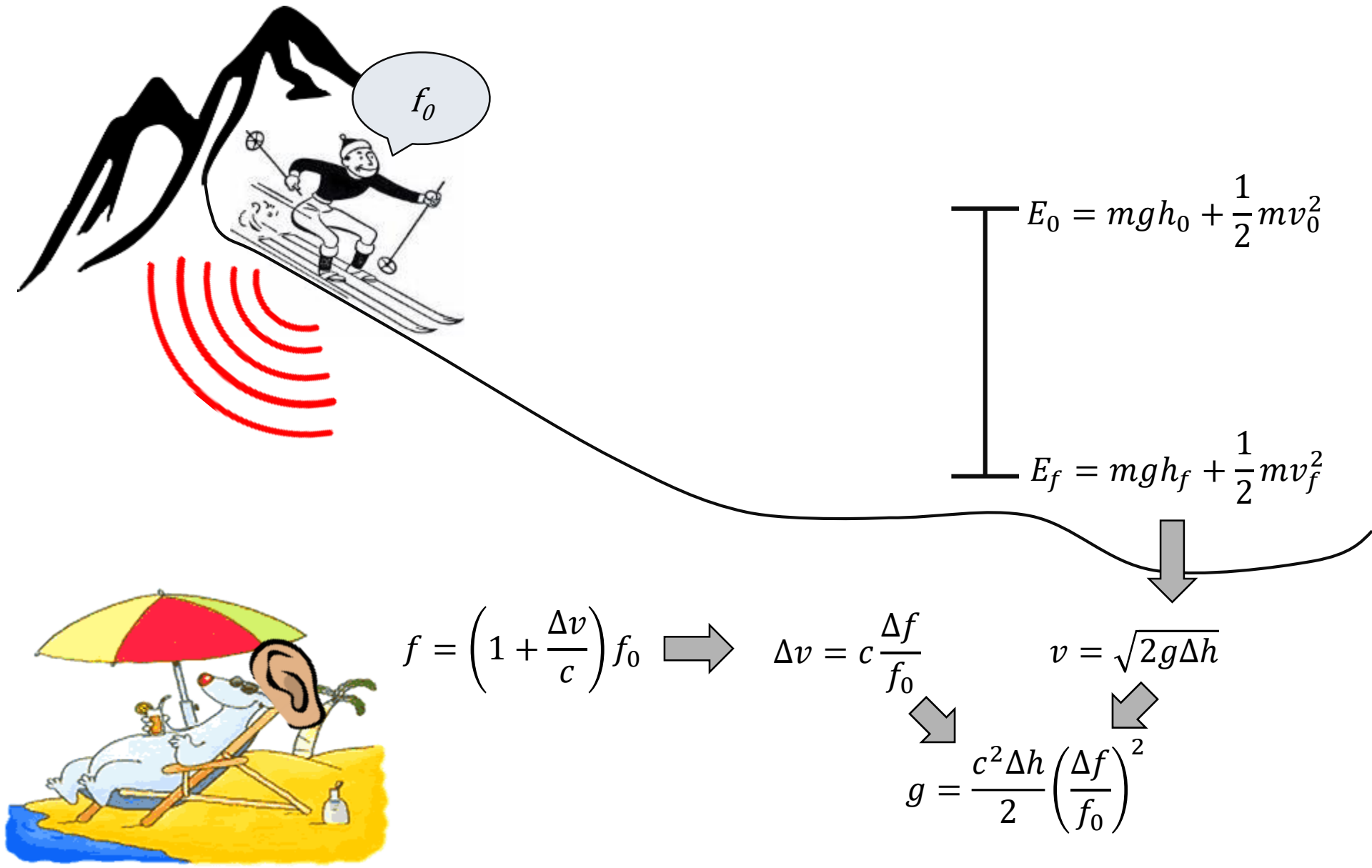
# Overview

## Agenda

1. What is Gravity Science?
2. Instrumentation
3. Juno Mission to Jupiter
4. Current Operations Status
5. Dynamics at Jupiter
6. Initial Results



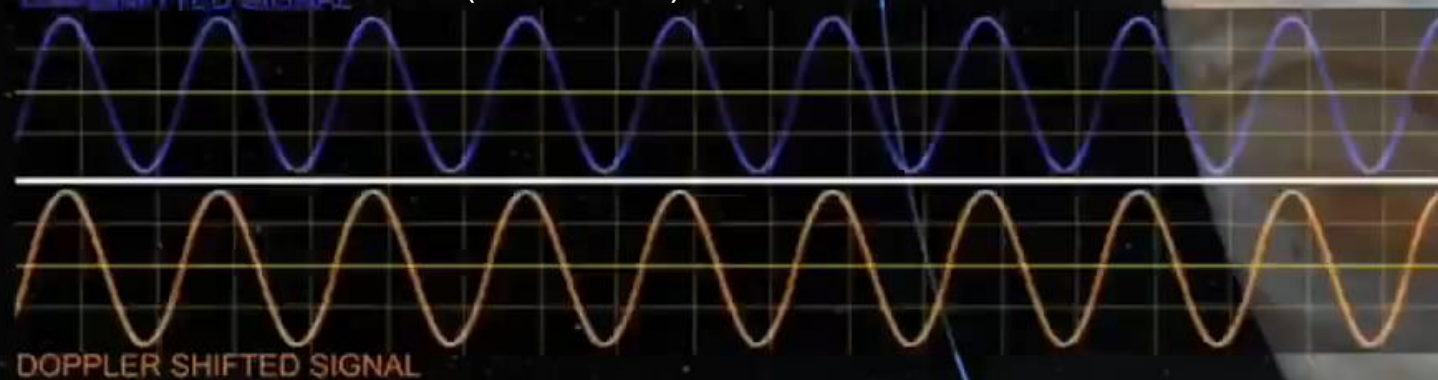
# Measuring the Gravity Field





# Gravity Science

- Examine changes in phase/**frequency** between the ground-based receiving stations of the NASA Deep Space Network and the Juno spacecraft to determine:
  - Mass/density
  - Spherical harmonics (gravitational field)
    - Lower-degree terms: oblateness, rotational axis, deep interior structure
      - Is there a core?
      - How deep are the winds (differential rotation)?
      - What effect do the moons have (tidal effect)?



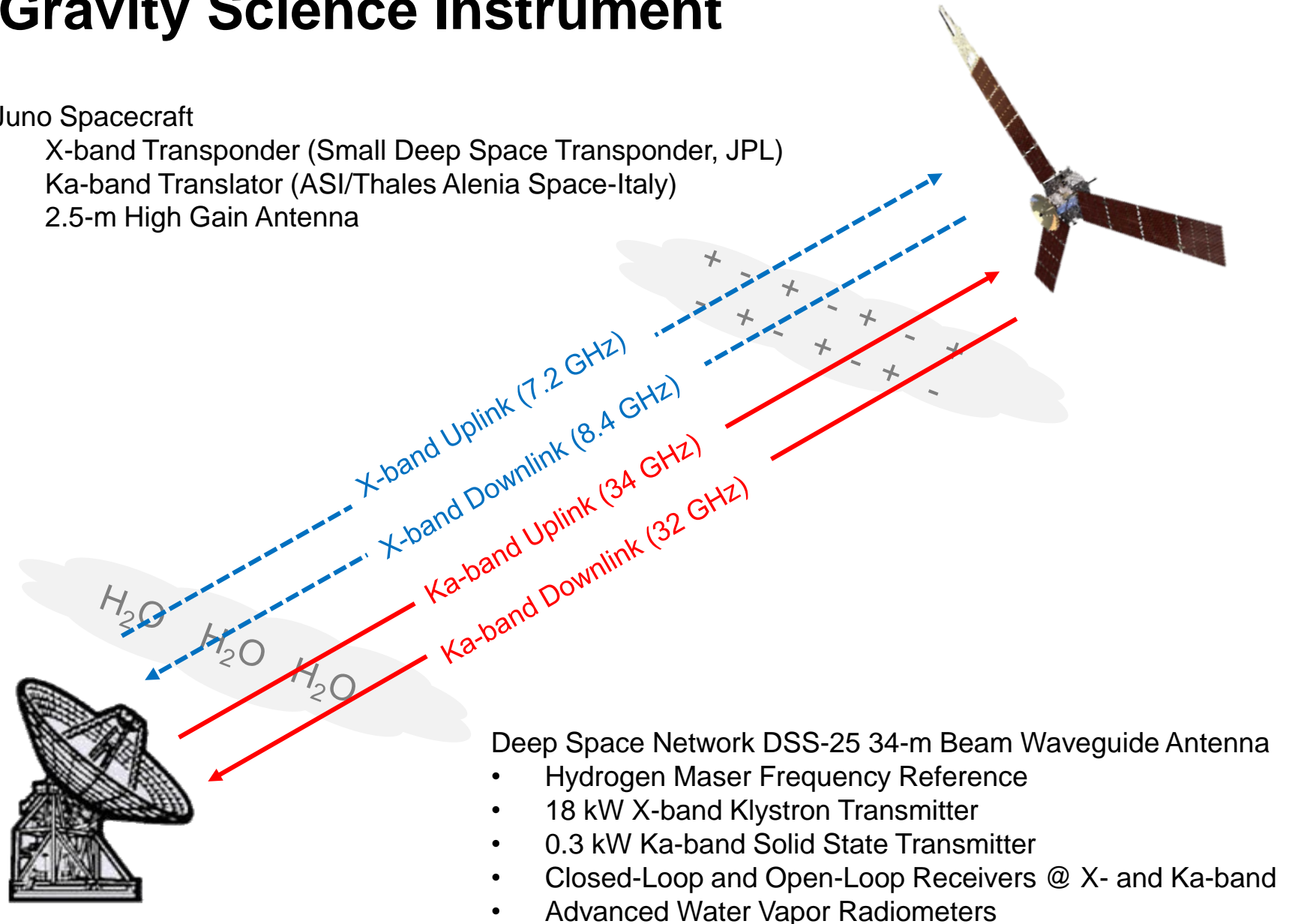
# Juno Mission



# Gravity Science Instrument

## Juno Spacecraft

- X-band Transponder (Small Deep Space Transponder, JPL)
- Ka-band Translator (ASI/Thales Alenia Space-Italy)
- 2.5-m High Gain Antenna



## Deep Space Network DSS-25 34-m Beam Waveguide Antenna

- Hydrogen Maser Frequency Reference
- 18 kW X-band Klystron Transmitter
- 0.3 kW Ka-band Solid State Transmitter
- Closed-Loop and Open-Loop Receivers @ X- and Ka-band
- Advanced Water Vapor Radiometers



# Unique Upgrades to DSS-25

## Ka-band Transmitter

- Inherited 800 W Klystron from Cassini
- Failed twice; replaced with dual combined SSPA for 300 W after launch



## Adv. Water Vapor Radiometer

- Measures sky brightness temperatures at 22.2, 23.8, and 31.4 GHz



# Noise Sources

## Earth Troposphere

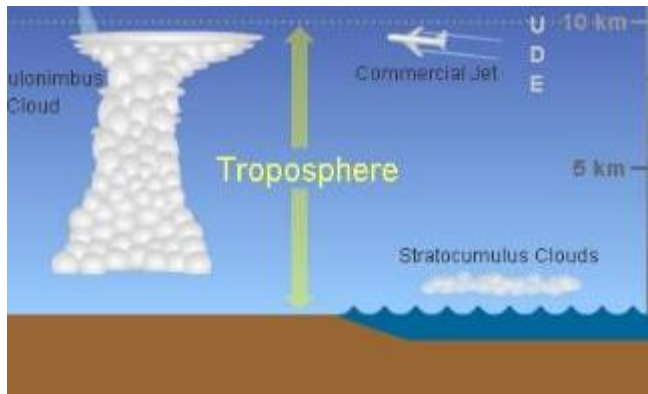


Image courtesy UCAR

## Earth Ionosphere\*

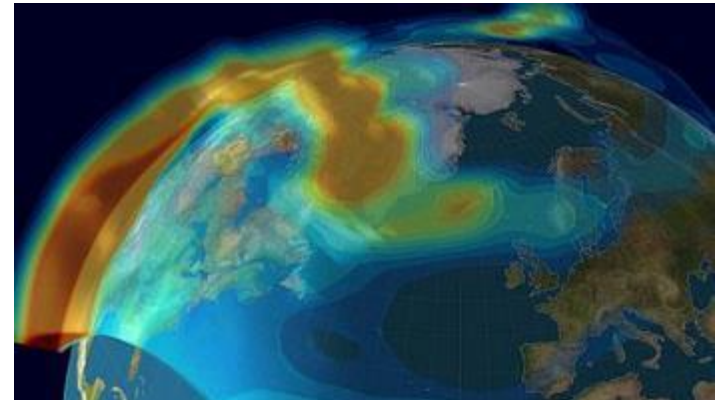


Image courtesy Universe Today

## Solar Plasma\*

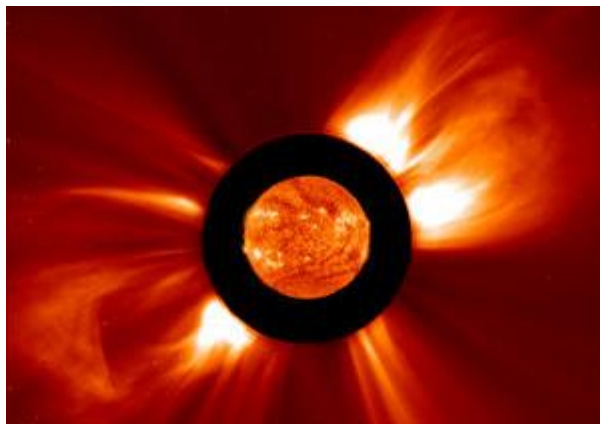


Image courtesy NASA APOD

## Io Plasma Torus\*

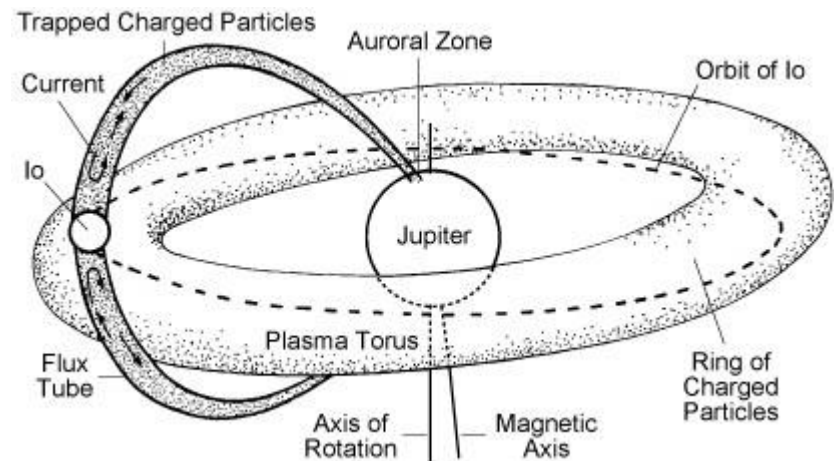
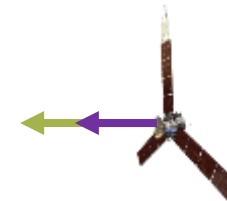
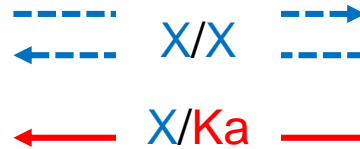
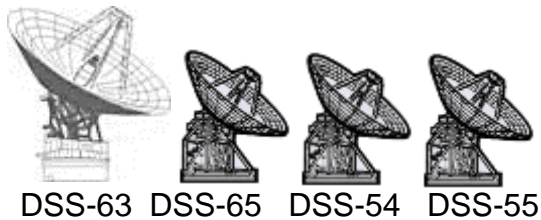


Image courtesy Tufts University



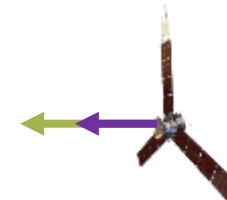
# Summary of Perijoves

**PJ-01** / August 27, 2016



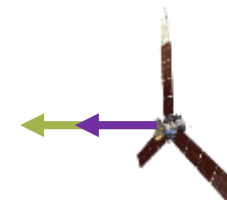
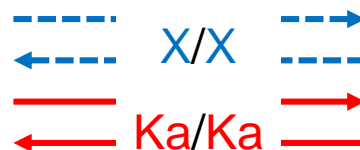
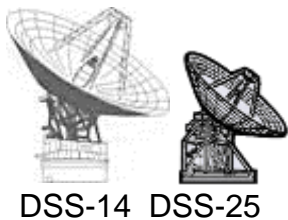
GRAV Attitude  
Earth-pointed

**PJ-02** / October 19, 2016 – Safe Mode Entry



GRAV Attitude  
Earth-pointed

**PJ-03** / December 11, 2016



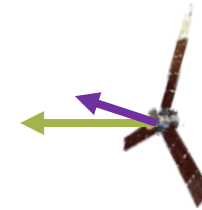
GRAV Attitude  
Earth-pointed

# Summary of Perijoves

**PJ-04** / February 2, 2017

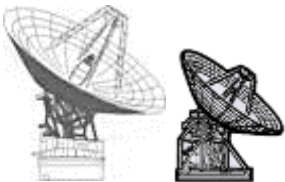


DSS-25

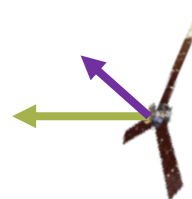


MWR Attitude  
Radiometers to Jupiter  
~24 deg off Earth-point  
Medium Gain Antenna

**PJ-05** / March 27, 2017

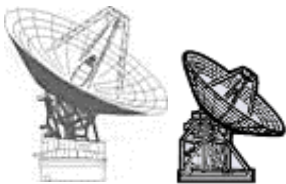


DSS-14 DSS-25

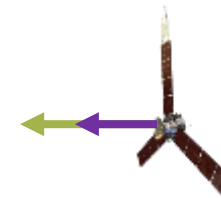
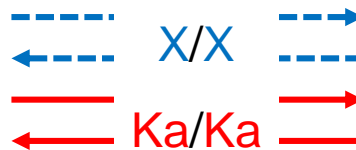


MWR-tilt Attitude  
Radiometers to Jupiter  
~27 deg off Earth-point  
Medium Gain Antenna

**PJ-06** / May 19, 2017



DSS-14 DSS-25

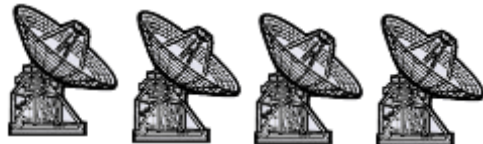


GRAV Attitude  
Earth-pointed

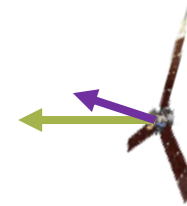
# Summary of Perijoves

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## PJ-07 / July 10, 2017 – Great Red Spot Flyover



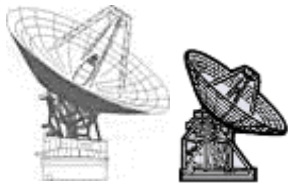
DSS-15 DSS-24 DSS-25 DSS-26



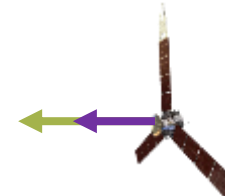
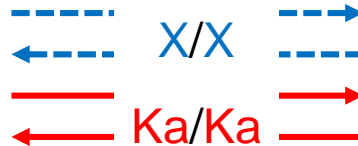
MWR Attitude  
Radiometers to GRS  
~16 deg off Earth-point  
Medium Gain Antenna

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## PJ-08 / September 1, 2017



DSS-14 DSS-25



GRAV Attitude  
Earth-pointed

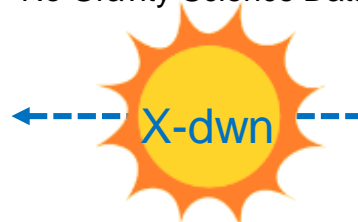
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## PJ-09 / October 24, 2017

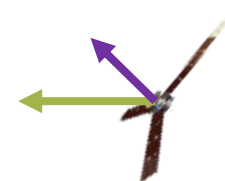


DSS-14

No Gravity Science Data



Solar Conjunction SEP ~1.9 deg



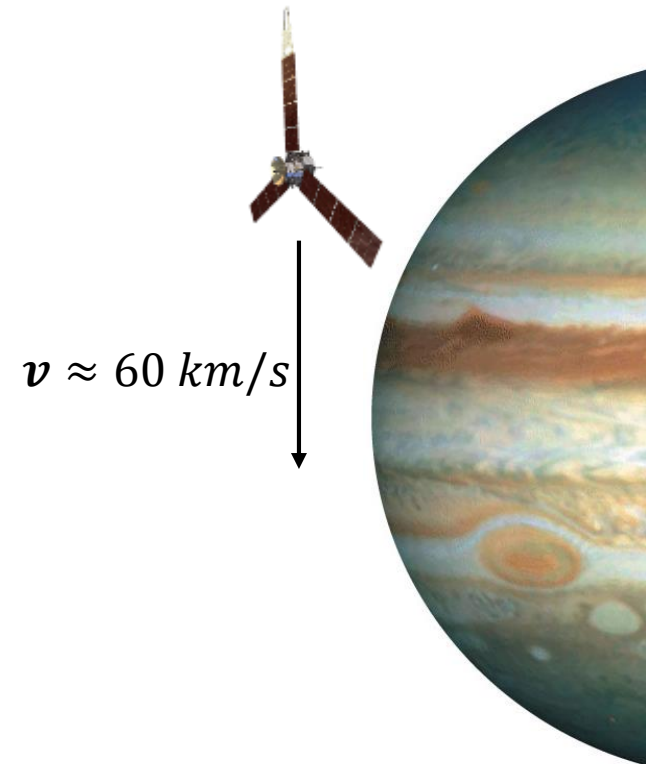
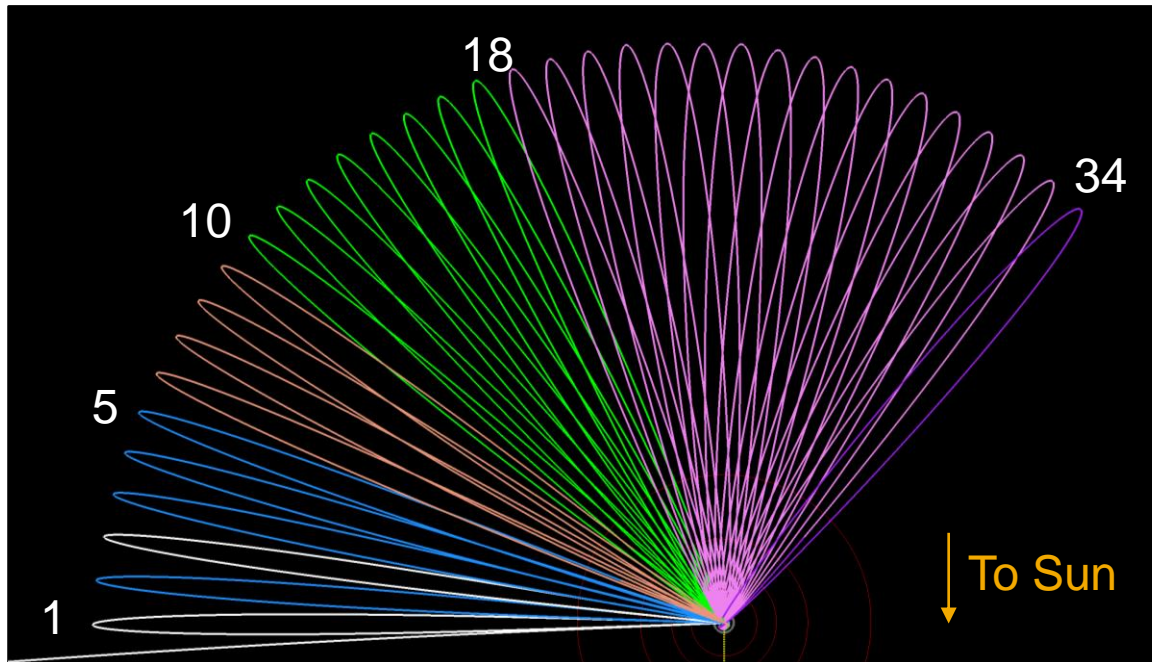
MWR-tilt Attitude  
Radiometers to Jupiter  
~39 deg off Earth-point  
Low Gain Antenna



# Considerations in Larger 53-Day Orbits

## Doppler Dynamics

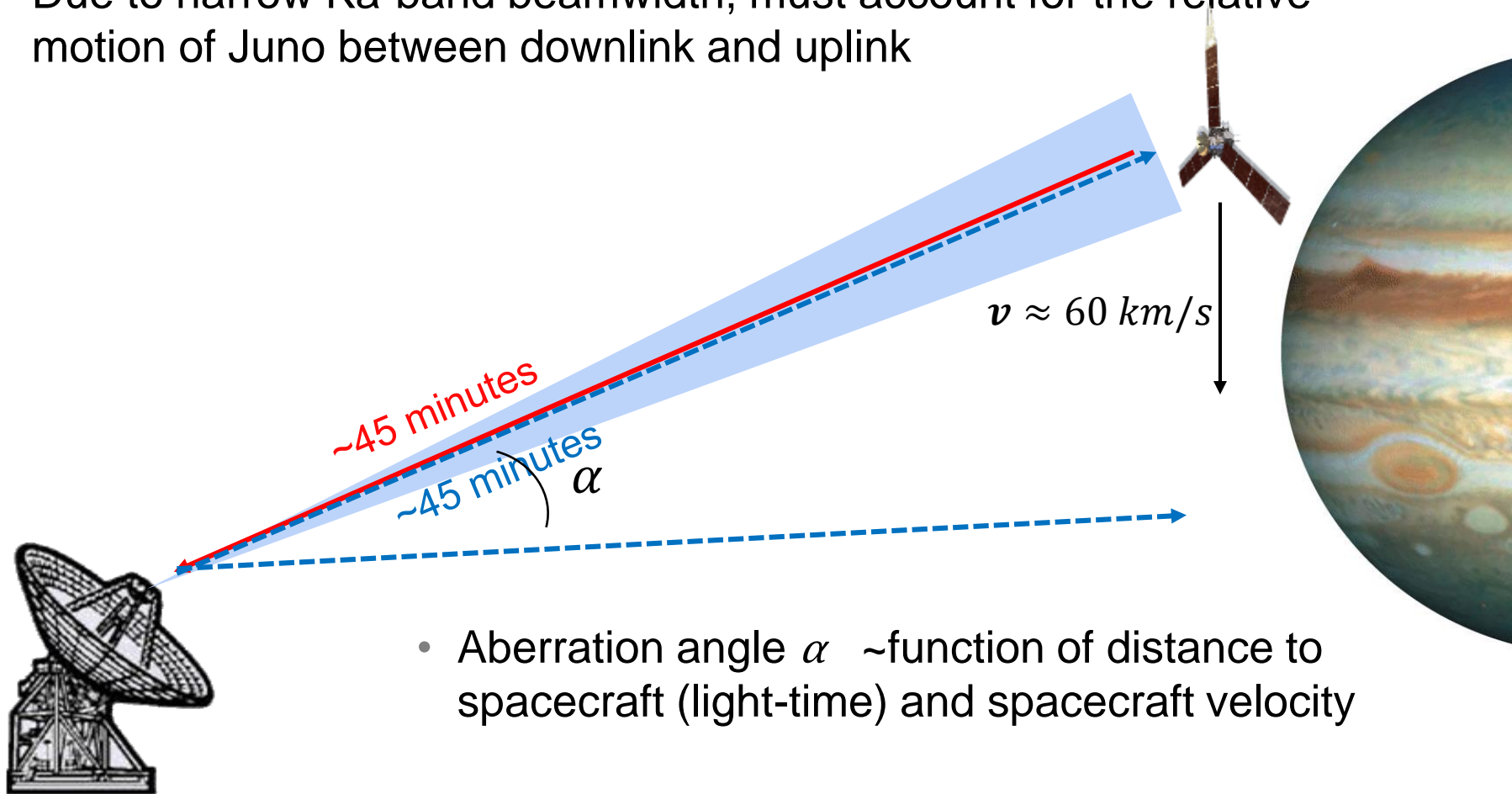
- Spacecraft velocity relative to ground station, projected onto the line-of-sight
- Speed at perijove about the same – but precession of orbit plane is faster



# Considerations in Larger 53-Day Orbits

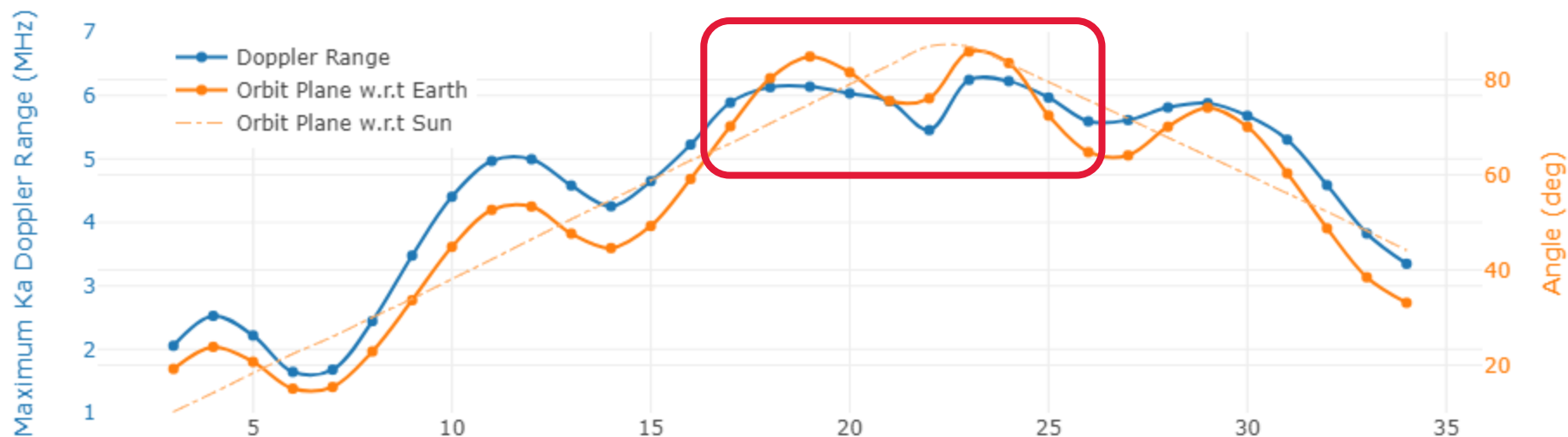
## Ka-band Pointing & Uplink Aberration

- Due to narrow Ka-band beamwidth, must account for the relative motion of Juno between downlink and uplink

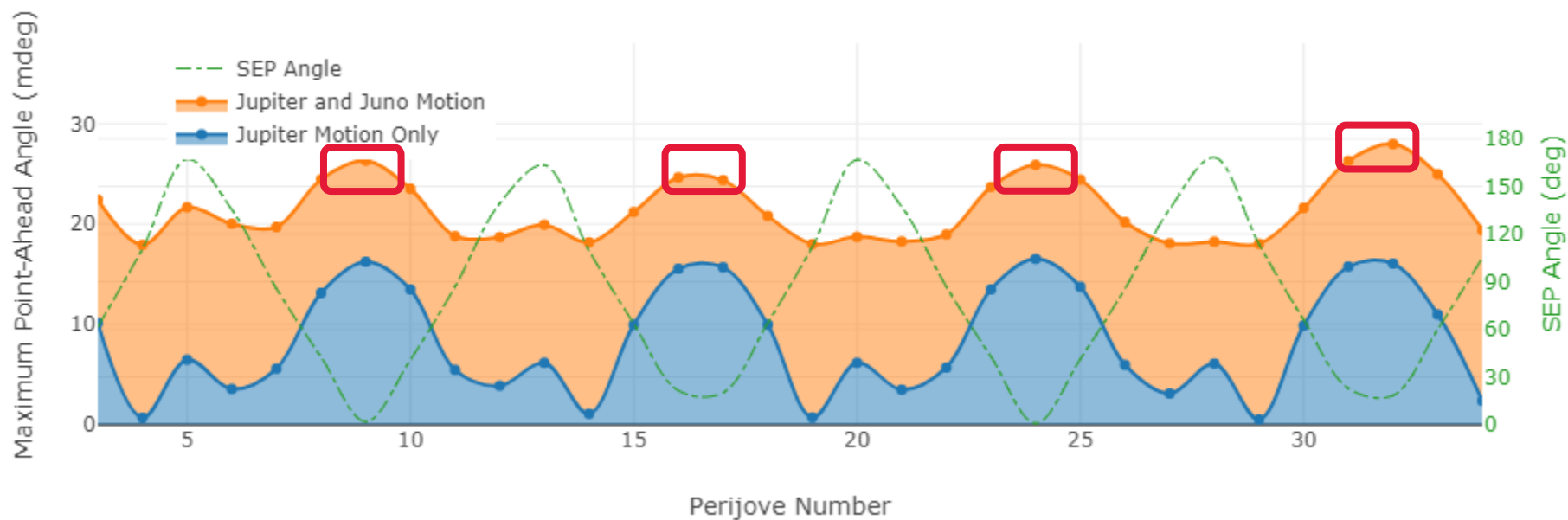


- Aberration angle  $\alpha$  ~function of distance to spacecraft (light-time) and spacecraft velocity

## Maximum Doppler Range



## Maximum Aberration Components

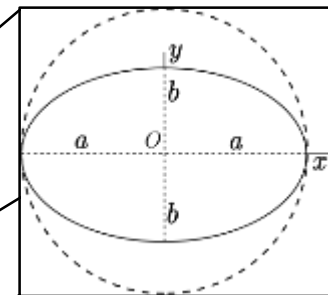
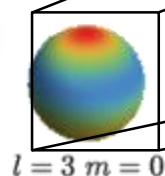
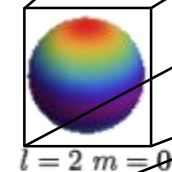
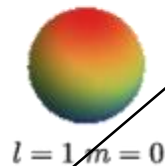
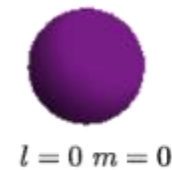
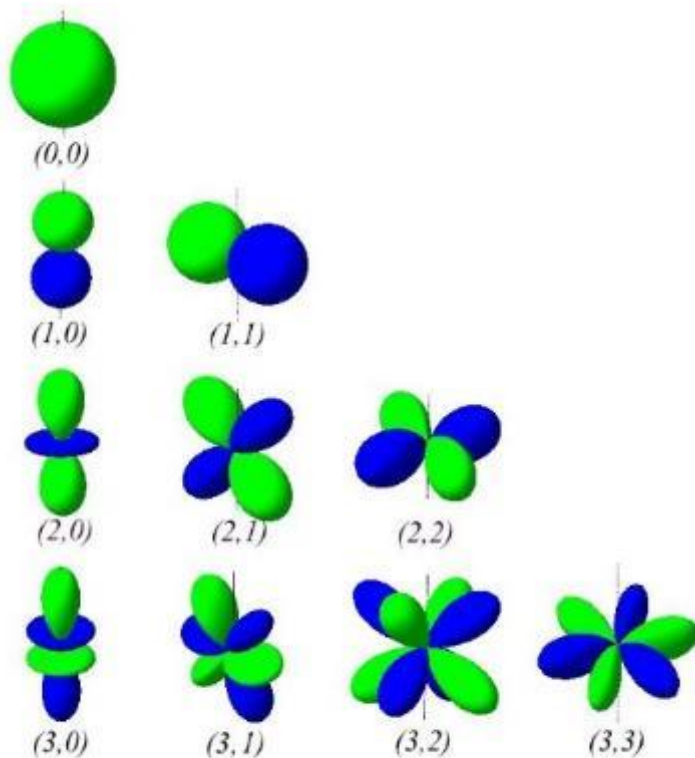




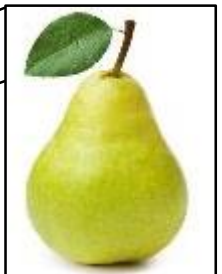
# What is a “gravity field” anyway?

## Gravitational Potential

$$U = \underbrace{\frac{\mu}{r}}_{\text{Two-body}} - \underbrace{\frac{\mu^*}{r} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{a_e}{r}\right)^l P_l(\sin \phi) J_l}_{\text{Zonal harmonics}} + \underbrace{\frac{\mu^*}{r} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^l \left(\frac{a_e}{r}\right)^l P_{lm}(\sin \phi) [C_{lm} \cos m\lambda + S_{lm} \sin m\lambda]}_{\text{Tesseral/sectoral harmonics}}$$



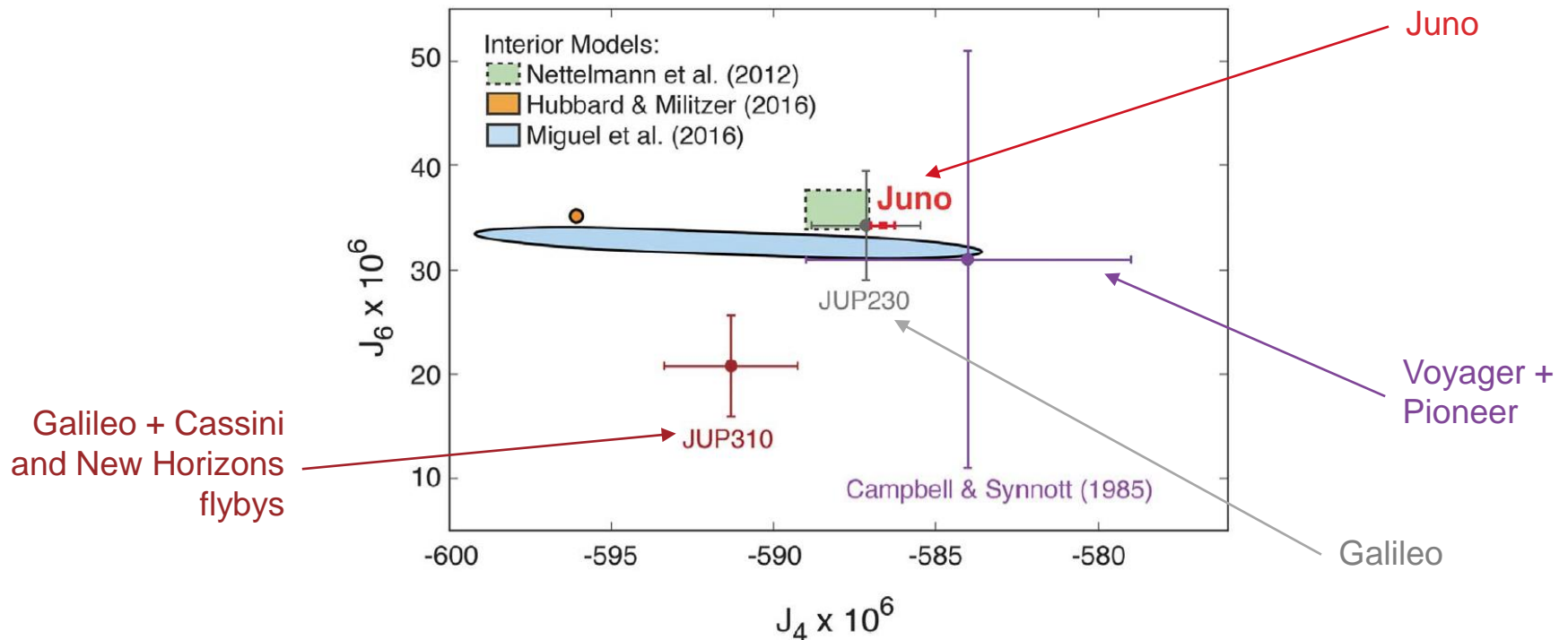
J2: “Squish”



J3: “Pear”

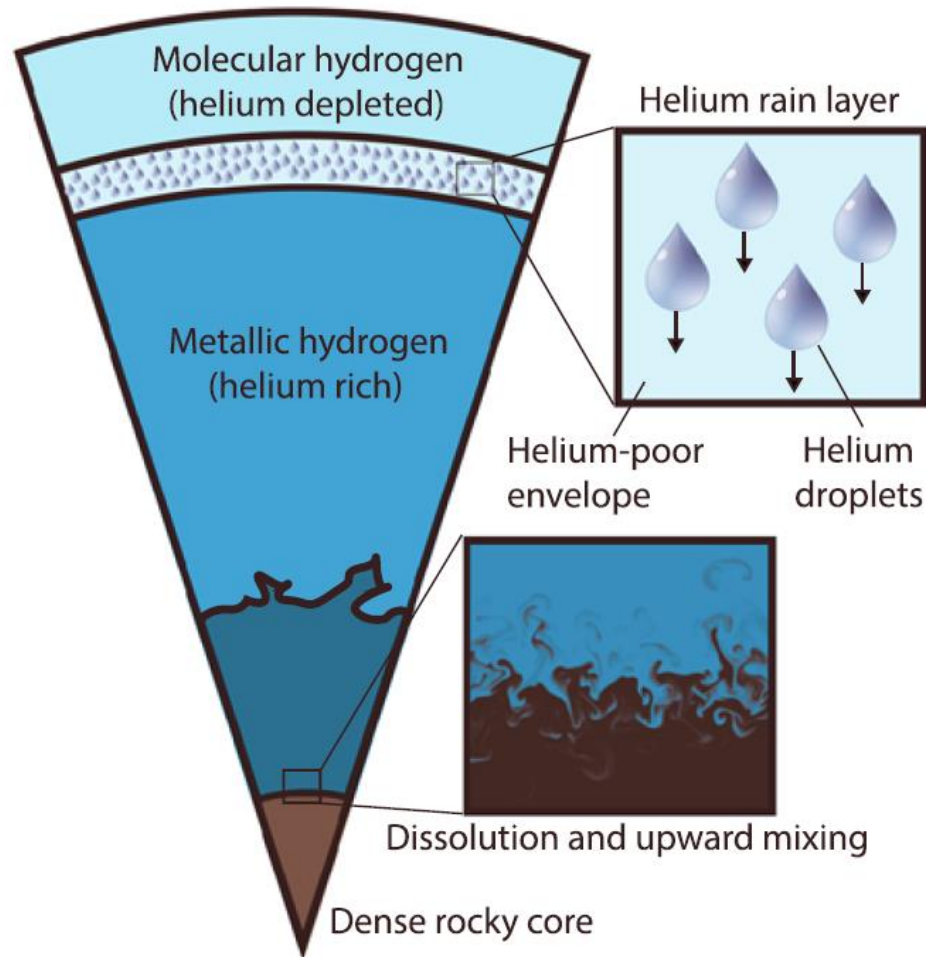
# Initial Results of the Gravity Investigation

- Results from PJ-01 and PJ-02 alone improve the gravity field coefficients by a factor of 5 over previous missions
- Coefficients  $J_4$  and  $J_6$  provide strong constraints on interior models of Jupiter



# Impact on Jupiter's Interior

- Interior models prior to arrival at Jupiter do not match Juno's gravity data
- Jupiter is largely hydrogen/helium plus a concentration of heavy elements
- Current data suggest a “dilute” core of heavy elements dissolved in hydrogen may help explain Juno's measurements





# Summary & Conclusions

- Juno Gravity Science has collected good-quality gravity science data for all perijove passes, with the exception of solar conjunction
  - Medium Gain and Low Gain Antennas allowed for bonus single-band science on perijoves where the spacecraft was off-point
  - Dual-X/Ka measurements the highest precision planetary geodesy data collected between a ground station and a spacecraft
- Resulted in the highest precision gravity field of Jupiter to-date, 5x better than estimates with previous missions
- How does this impact Jupiter's interior and origin?

# Acknowledgement – A Team Effort



## Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex

- DSN Antenna Operators



## Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company

- Mark Susak & Chris Leeds, Juno Telecom



## Madrid Deep Space Communications Complex

- DSN Antenna Operators



## University of Pisa

- Andrea Milani
- Daniele Serra



## University of Bologna

- Paolo Tortora
- Marco Zannoni



## Sapienza University of Rome

- Luciano Iess, *Gravity Co-I*
- Daniele Durante



## Thales Alenia Space

- Lorenzo Simone, Ka-band Translator



## Jet Propulsion Laboratory

- Science Analysis
  - Bill Folkner, *Gravity PI*
  - Marzia Parisi
- Instrument Engineering
  - Dustin Buccino, *IOT Lead*
  - Danny Kahan
  - Oscar Yang
  - Kamal Oudrhiri
- Advanced Water Vapor Radiometer
  - Elias Barbinis
  - Meegyeong Paik
  - Scott Bryant
- DSN Systems Engineering
  - Andre Jongeling
  - Tim Cornish
- Juno Mission Sequencing & Mgmt



## Southwest Research Institute

- John Anderson, *Gravity Co-I*



## DSN Remote Operations Center

- DSN Network Operations Engineers



## Canberra Deep Space Communications Complex

- DSN Antenna Operators



**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology

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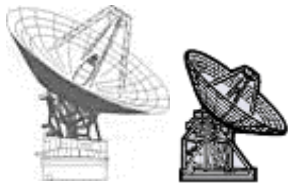
[jpl.nasa.gov](http://jpl.nasa.gov)

# Backup slides

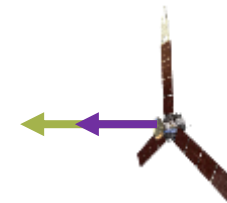
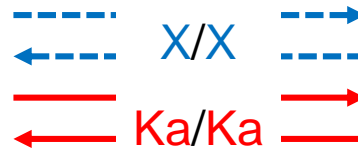


# Summary of Perijoves

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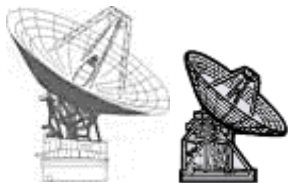


DSS-14 DSS-25

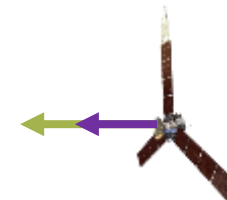
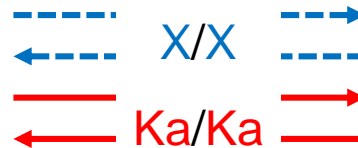


GRAV Attitude  
Earth-pointed

**PJ-11** / February 7, 2018



DSS-14 DSS-25

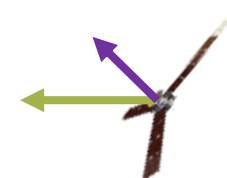


GRAV Attitude  
Earth-pointed

**PJ-12** / April 1, 2018



DSS-14



“+30/-20” Attitude  
Optimization for Magnetosphere  
~41 deg off Earth-point  
Low Gain Antenna

# High Dynamic Environment – Lessons Learned

- “Test-as-you fly” full instrument practice tracks
  - Upgraded/new ground hardware added after launch
  - Verify and Validate the ground hardware prior to science in the full instrument configuration
- Robust ground-based DSN configurations and adaptable instrument and telecom configuration